

IN HONOR OF MAJOR GENERAL
SALVE MATHESON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MG Salve H. Matheson, who passed away January 8 at the age of 84. Major General Matheson's life-long dedication to military service will forever remind us of the importance of courage and dedication, even in trying times.

Born in Seattle, Major General Matheson and his family moved to Monterey in 1920. After graduating from UCLA, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. During World War II, Major General Matheson participated in D-Day at Normandy, the liberation of Holland, the storm of Hitler's "Eagle Nest" and the defense of Bastogne. The heroics of his unit were forever immortalized by historian Stephen Ambrose in the 1992 novel "Band of Brothers."

During the Korean War, Major General Matheson continued to play key roles in major military operations, such as the amphibious landings at Inchon and Wonsan. In the Vietnam War, he commanded the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and participated in the Tet Offensive. Major General Matheson continued his military career in Korea in the late 1960s by commanding the 2nd Infantry Division along the demilitarized zone.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Major General Matheson for his distinguished career. His contribution to our country is immeasurable. MG Salve H. Matheson has left a legacy of leadership and service to his community that will not soon be forgotten. While he will be sorely missed, his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

HONORING WILLIAM SAFIRE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the long and distinguished career of a great writer and thinker—and a close and dear friend—Mr. William Safire. This week marks the last of his columns on the Op-Ed page of the New York Times, closing out one of the most respected, thoughtful and longest-running series of commentaries in the history of American media.

Bill Safire has worn many hats throughout his career, starting out as a radio and television producer, then as a U.S. Army correspondent, and later as a speechwriter and political strategist in the Nixon Administration. Bill Safire is best known, though, for his column which first appeared in the New York Times in 1973. Even among the all-star lineup at the Times, Bill Safire's star shines brightly, as he stands out among the Nation's most celebrated and thought-provoking writers in the newspaper business.

While we might find ourselves on opposite sides of a policy or political debate, I have always enjoyed reading Bill Safire's opinions. I've also looked forward to his Sunday column,

"On Language," in the Times' Magazine which has spun off into 10 books and ranked him among the world's most widely read commentators on English grammar, etymology and usage.

I am sure that Bill's wife, Helene, will be glad to have him around more often and to spend more time with their two children and granddaughter. While the rest of us will miss his words of wisdom, his thoughtful insight, and the discussion prompted by his opinions, we can still look forward to his "On Language" column each Sunday, and hopefully, well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the best of luck to Bill and his family during his retirement and throughout his future endeavors, including his ongoing written works and as chair of the Dana Foundation, a philanthropic organization promoting science, health, and education, particularly in the area of brain research. Bill Safire's voice in America's commentary will not be easily replaced, and I am among the many devoted readers who will miss him dearly.

IN HONOR OF CHARLIE J.
FABYANSKI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlie J. Fabyanski for his dedicated service to the community throughout the years. Mr. Fabyanski was honored at a dinner dance for the Richard A. Rutkowski Association's 26th anniversary gala on January 15, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Mr. Fabyanski has served the Bayonne community in a variety of capacities. For more than ten years, he has worked as the institutional representative of St. Andrew's Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Sea Scouts. He has also graciously volunteered his time at the Special Olympics of Hudson County, the Windmill Center, the Highways programs, and as an usher at church.

A leader in many organizations, Mr. Fabyanski has been a trustee of Hudson Milestone, president of the Hudson Ability Bowling League, treasurer of the Bayonne Friends of the Handicapped, secretary of St. Andrew's Holy Name Society, and past president of his parish's seniors' group.

Mr. Fabyanski's honorable service has extended well beyond the Bayonne community. A veteran of World War II, he bravely served his country as an army sergeant and fought in the infamous battles of Normandy and St. Lo.

As a licensed state engineer, he worked for 25 years as a supervisor of air conditioning and refrigeration at the former Military Ocean Terminal. Mr. Fabyanski graduated from the Lincoln Technical Institute and is the proud parent of two sons and two grandchildren.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Charlie J. Fabyanski for his years of devoted volunteerism and leadership. His deep commitment to serving others is well respected and his work has positively impacted the lives of those in his community.

IN HONOR OF MEL VERCOE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mel J. Vercoe, who passed away on October 6th at the age of 89. Mel's life-long dedication to activism and public service will forever remind us of the importance of courage and service in our community.

Mel was a 1933 graduate of Mt. Vernon High School in Washington State. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II and moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1963 with his wife Dolores and his two children Ken and Linda.

As an architect and contractor, Mel was involved in the construction business for over 50 years. Mel was well known for his many "Letters to the Editor" which appeared in the Monterey Herald and other local newspapers. A politician at heart, Mel always gave his take on issues to help the community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Mel for his honorable service to our country and his contributions to our community. While he will be sorely missed, his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FORMER
MAYOR VICKI COCEANO

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to a truly great lady, Mayor Vicki Coceano, who became the City of Miramar's first female mayor in 1989 and led the city through an unprecedented period of growth. Mayor Coceano, who was known as the "Matriarch of Miramar," died at the age of 81. She was a remarkable leader in many ways, a proactive and energetic public servant and a Mayor with an open door policy who spoke her mind on the dais.

Mayor Coceano first became involved in politics after a hurricane damaged her back yard in 1960 and she couldn't find the mayor at the time for help. She fought the city and her developer before running for the commission in 1966, a bid she lost.

She ran again in 1977 and won. She became one of Broward County's most recognizable and outspoken politicians during her 22 years in public office. During her tenure as Miramar's Mayor, Coceano oversaw landmark changes as the city grew from a sleepy bedroom community with cow pastures and vast tracts of empty land to a Broward boomtown, home to WTVJ-NBC 6 and a host of national companies.

Her accomplishments included weakening her own job, using a city manager to run the city and raising money in the 1980s to build the youth center that now bears her name. Vicki Coceano, a native of Italy, retired as Mayor of Miramar in 1999.

Outside of politics and family life, Coceano worked tirelessly to help senior citizens, serving on the Board of Directors for the Broward